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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10 SCI-06

OMB-01 SS-15 AID-20 PA-03 PRS-01 BNDE-00 DODE-00

RSR-01 /123 W
---------- 079125
P 282143 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8218

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 5376

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR CO
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN COLOMBIA- JUNE 1973

1. A CUSTOMS NARCOTICS ACTION PLAN WAS SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE FOR APPROVAL ON MAY 22. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY THE MINISTER. A COPY OF THE PLAN, ALONG WITH AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION HAS BEEN FORWARDED UNDER COVER OF BOGOTA A-142.

2. ON MAY 30, AMBASSADOR SACCIO AND DCM WHITE MET WITH THE NEWLY-APPOINTED MINISTER OF JUSTICE, JAIME CASTRO, BTO BRIEF HIM ON NARCOTICS. AS WAS REPORTED IN BOGOTA 4508, THE MINISTER SHOWED THEM A TEXT OF A DRAFT DECREE WHICH ESTABLISHES A MULTI- AGENCY COMMITTEE WITH HIMSELF AS CHAIRMAN TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC NARCOTICS INTERDICTION. THE DECREE WAS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT ON JUNE 26, 1973. HE PROMISED TO GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO DRUG INTERDICTION.

3. ON JUNE 20 (SEE BOGOTA 5193) GOC OFFICIALS BEGAN THE DESTRUC-TION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS WHICH WERE STORED IN THE BANK OF THE REPUBLIC. IN THE PRESENCE OF PRESS REPRESENTATIVES AND EMBASSY OFFICERS, 17,498 GRAMS (174.98 KILOS) OF COCAINE WERE DESTROYED. DURING THE MONTH LARGE AMOUNTS OF SEIZED NARCOTICS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.
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4. THERE FOLLOWS SUMMARIES ON A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF NARCOTICS CASES IN COLOMBIA DURING JUNE AND THOSE NOT REPORTED PREVIOUSLY:
(A) MAY 23, A COURIER FOR A WELL- KNOWN NARCOTICS RING WAS ARRESTED IN POPAYAN, COLOMBIA IN POSSESSION OF FOUR KILOS OF COCAINE.
(B) ON MAY 25 DAS ARRESTED TWO AMERICANS AT A BOGOTA HOTEL FOR POSSESSION OF 300 GRAMS OF COCAINE.
(C) ON JUNE 4 DAS ARRESTED AND DEPORTED TO THE U. S. A U. S. NARCOTICS FUGITIVE.
(D) ON JUNE 7 AN INTELLIGENCE PROBE OF ACTIVITIES IN LETICIA WAS BEGUN. INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE BNDD REPRESENTATIVE IN BOGOTA INDICATED COCAINE WAS BEING SHIPPED FROM LETICIA TO PUERTO ASIS ALONG THE PUTUMAYO RIVER. BNDD IS STILL AWAITING A REPORT ON THIS INVESTIGATION.

(E) ON JUNE 26 A CLANDESTINE COCAINE LABORATORY WAS DISCOVERED AND ONE VIOLATOR WAS ARRESTED BY THE F-2 UNIT OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. AN UNDETERMINED AMOUNT OF COCA LEAVES, COCA PASTE, PRECURSORS AND
OTHER LABORATORY EQUIPMENT WERE SEIZED. LABORATORY WAS ESTIMATED TO
HAVE A CAPACITY OF TWO TO THREE KILOS PER MONTH.

(F) DURING JUNE, IN TEN SEAPARTE ACTIONS, IN SEVEN DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS, THE NATIONAL POLICE SEIZED A TOTAL OF 14,045 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA PLANTS. A TOTAL OF 16 ARRESTS RESULTED FROM THESE ACTIVITIES.

5. THERE FOLLOWS SUMMAREIS ON ARRESTS OF COLOMBIANS ABROAD WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM OFFICIAL TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED A COMPLETE LIST.
(A) ON MAY 24 IN MIAMI, FOUR COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL WERE ARRESTED AND APPROXIMATELY 6.25 POUNDS OF COCAINE WERE SEIZED.
(B) ON MAY 30, MJP AT TALISMAN, MEXICO ARRESTED TWO COLOMBIAN CITIZENS WITH APPROXIMATELY 6.5 KILOS COCAINE.
(C) ON MAY 31, MFJP AT TALISMAN, MEXICO ARRESTED ONE COLOMBIAN CITIZEN IN POSSESSION OF TWO KILOS OF COCAINE WHICH HE HAD OBTAINED FROM MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA.
(D) ON JUNE 2 THE CUSTOMS ATTACHE IN PANAMA WORKING WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE GOP CUSTOMS NARCOTICS AGENTS ARRESTED ONE COL-OMBIAN AND ONE MEXICAN CITIZEN IN POSSESSION OF APPROXIMATELY TWO KILOS OF COCAINE AT THE TOCUMEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT .

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(E) IN A TELEGRAM RECEIVED JUNE 4 FROM MEXICO (MEXICO 4077) AMEMBASSY MEXICO INFORMED US OF THE ARREST OF 19 PERSONS AND THE SEIZURE OF OVER 30 KILOS OF COCAINE DURING THE PREVIOUS TWO- WEEK PERIOD. THEY REPORTED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THESE TRAFFICKERS WERE

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COLOMBIANS.

(F) ON JUNE 9 AT PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ONE
COLOMBIAN CITIZEN WAS ARRESTED BY BNDD AND TWO KILOS OF COCAINE
WERE SEIZED.

(G) ON JUNE 12 AT THE SAN ANTONIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
CUSTOMS ARRESTED TWO COLOMBIAN MALES AFTER FINDING APPROXIMATELY
ONE KILO OF COCAINE ON EACH SUBJECT.
SACCIO

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